

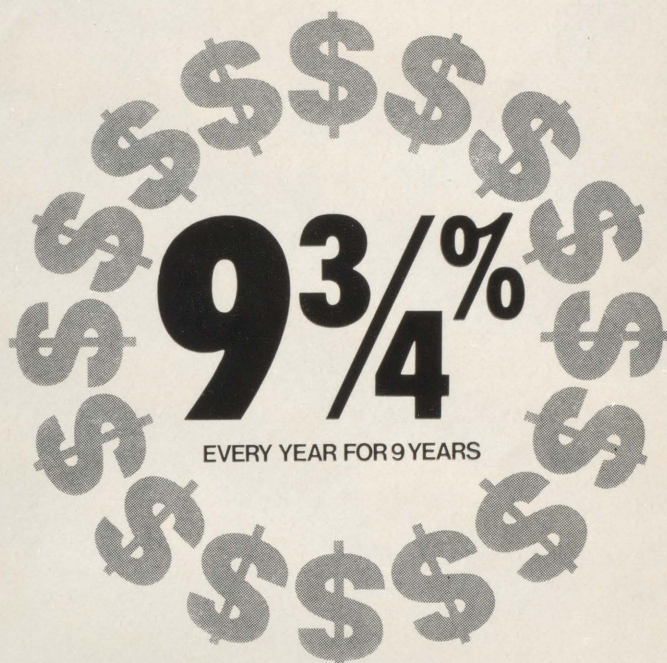
THE macdonald JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 1974



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THE macdonald Journal

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Journal Jottings

At a very early age I got an old
expression drummed into me —
"Horses sweat, men perspire,
but women glow." It's simply not
true — for weeks now I've been
sweating over this particular issue.
I may have worked harder on
past issues but I can think of few
that have affected me in quite
the same way. This, for me, is a
special issue and it has been put
together with very mixed emotions.
As hard as I try I cannot be
objective — I readily admit to
being a bleeding heart sentiment-
alist when it comes to the subject
of animals, both wild and domestic.
I also admit that I have never
been able to accept the concept
of the survival of the fittest and
the fact that one animal must die
in order that another may live.
There should have been a better
way. Feelings such as these may
make for great motivation, but
I fully realize that they are im-
practical — that motivation must
be mixed with training for a
realistic approach to any subject.

And I think it is an extremely
realistic approach that has been
taken in the two articles in
this issue.

The first one "Coyotes and Other
Pests" will be, I hope, of some
assistance to the many farmers who
have been plagued by losses of
livestock. The author, Professor
J. R. Bider, has given several
concrete suggestions that may help
certain farming areas to reduce
their losses. He feels that one of
the major problems is the many
dumps in the province. He has other
suggestions but frankly admits
that much more research must be
undertaken before the problem
of pests in farming areas can
even be partially solved.

Research, committees, field work,
and reports may sound long, tedious
and unproductive, particularly
to the farmer who has just found
an animal ripped to pieces. But it
is the only way. Going out to the
woods, packing a rifle, may release
frustrations and relieve the prob-
lem temporarily, but it is not a

permanent solution. Much more
productive would be strong
demands for government support
— remember writing letters and
attending local council meetings
can also relieve a lot of frustration.
This type of demand will also
help wildlife biologists, like
Professor Bider, to receive the
funds necessary to find the long-
lasting solutions for the benefit
of the farmer and also for the pests
in question, for they, in their
natural environment, must also
be considered if a proper balance of
nature is to be maintained.

Our second article is the one I
really sweated on. It is the result
of a conversation that lasted for
three hours but could have gone on
for days. I was very moved by
it and hope that you read it and,
if it convinces even a few of our
readers that the animal depicted
on our cover has a God-given
right to survival, then I really
will "glow".

Hazel M. Clarke

Enrollment in the first year class at Macdonald College has increased 70 per cent over last year. All of us at Macdonald are pleased with this "vote of confidence" by young people interested in agriculture, food, biology, and natural resources. It is gratifying to note this increased interest in what Macdonald has to offer in spite of all the rumours of uncertainty concerning our future.

But before we begin to "slap ourselves on the back" too much for a job well done, we have to perhaps place Macdonald's increase in enrollment in its proper perspective. Agricultural colleges all across Canada have reported large increases in enrollment in agriculture. This is a rather encouraging trend from the days when I was an undergraduate student and agricultural college enrollments were low. In those days there was the common attitude that "ag. colleges" were the last resort or dumping grounds for those students who couldn't make it in the more glamorous majors of business administration, engineering and arts and sciences.

However, in the last two years this attitude seems to be changing

and agriculture's image as a college major and career is on the rise. This is undoubtedly an outgrowth of the recent consumer interest in rising food prices and inflation. But it is also a reflection on the job market for agricultural graduates. The demand for agricultural graduates has always been relatively high and stable. In recent years, the increasing importance of agriculture is being recognized by government and industry groups and the prospects for agricultural careers are very bright.

Another factor in greater interest in agriculture among young people is perhaps a change in young people's attitudes and ideas about what type of lifestyle they would like to attain. Many young people are no longer seeking the fast pace of big cities, big companies, and big government agencies. They would much prefer a slower-paced living style that so often exists in our smaller, rural communities. Some are searching for careers that will place them in the

tranquility and calm of rural environments. Others are searching for occupations in which they can establish meaningful and personal relationships with their clients or customers. Others are searching for the freedom from authority and independence in decision-making that they feel farming will allow them to attain.

Regardless of the motives for seeking an agricultural career, the impact of these young people is definitely going to be felt in the rural community. They are going to be bringing new ideas and thinkings into rural communities which could have a pronounced impact on the future growth and development of rural areas. Some of their ideas may clash with the established customs and traditions of rural areas, but it must be kept in mind that this in the long run is a small price to pay for the influx of new people, new ideas, and new vigour into our rural communities. For once, agriculture and rural areas are important in the minds of our urban majority. This is a healthy situation and much preferred to the alternative of the past of disinterest, apathy, and neglect by our urban sector.

Gordon Bachman

Coyotes and Other Farm Pests

By Professor J. R. Bider,
Wildlife Resources,
Department of Renewable Resources

Even though I was brought up on the Island of Montreal it seems that a chicken coop in our back yard was about as normal as having a toolshed or garage. My grandfather was the first poultryman I ever met, and one of his fine attributes was that he was the greatest storyteller I have ever heard. Pop, as we called him, was a fount of knowledge and introduced me to many wonders of nature — one of which was how a hen house could be cleaned out by weasels, and another was how to make a scarecrow that would work. Today, some 30 years later, farmers are still preoccupied by pests, but, interestingly enough, they are not the same ones Pop worried about.

The detailed reasons for this are many, but in essence the changes have occurred because of the changes in land use and agricultural techniques. If you are a successful poultryman, you don't worry about weasels anymore because all your laying hens are in cages in an air-conditioned building. If you are a pea or corn grower, crows aren't as bad as they used to be because most of the crows feed down at the dump where man now adds more food per capita than he used to.

Because of the way we opened the land to agriculture, because of the crops we grew, the buildings we built, and the ditches we dug, raccoons slowly spread into areas where they had never existed. Because we planted more and more corn, red-winged blackbirds and starlings have proliferated to numbers never recorded in history. One of the more recent disturbing events is that the eastern coyote is rapidly increasing its numbers

and range and many people, sheep farmers in particular, are worried.

Oddly enough, although the animal has been around for years, we don't know too much about him because few biologists have had funds to study him. What we do know about the eastern coyote (often referred to as a brush wolf) can be quickly summarized by saying he is twice as big as a western coyote and half the size of a wolf. He tries to sing like a prairie coyote but sounds more like a pack of yipping terriers trying to howl at the moon. He is at home in broken fields, loves to hunt and eat mice, is not disturbed by the presence of man and can mate with dogs to produce coydogs. Coyotes can be found in all farming areas of the Province except the Gaspé; they have not yet reached that area. They far outnumber wolves in Temiscamingue, the Ottawa, and St. Maurice valley's colonized areas.

I think the two main reasons why coyotes have increased so rapidly is because of the growing presence of abandoned fields on the one hand and the many unmanaged, private, and public dumps that are so common in the Province. Around cities like Montreal where farmland has been abandoned to speculation the coyote finds a continuous supply of mice and cottontails, but farther away in the truly agricultural areas things are different. Where fields are grazed and hay and corn are harvested, the mice populations decrease tremendously in the fall and the coyotes have to look for new sources of food.

In apple country, the coyotes often turn to the large supplies of mice

in the healthy grass under the trees, and later in the season when wind-falls become available old coyotes will make use of these. Because the apples eaten have sometimes fermented, we often get reports of people seeing a drunken coyote weaving down the road. Sometimes neither small mammals nor fruit can be found, and if a coyote finds some sheep at this time of year, chances are it will take a swipe at them, and the farmer will be out one or two sheep. If there are a number of hungry coyotes in the area and the sheep's carcass has not been removed, then there is a good chance that the farmer might lose a few more sheep before the animals are brought in to shelter or the snow flies.

If we look at the tremendous amount of work done on western coyotes, we realize that sheep are probably the last resort food for a starving population. If this is the case, the crux of the management problem is trying to find out why we have so many half-starved pups every fall.

Under normal conditions, where man does not provide winter food, we would probably find that a good deal of the overwintering population of coyotes starves to death unless snow conditions are favourable and a lot of mice are available. The small spring population would reproduce as usual, but the total number of fall animals would remain relatively small. If, however, the starving, young coyote finds a municipal dump or a continuous supply of offal dumped in ravines away from the farm buildings, there will be no winter kill off and the spring population will increase year

after year until coyotes become a serious pest. This could not go on forever because one day the number of coyotes would exceed their food supply at the dumps and a new population level would establish itself.

While the population is on its way to this new and greater size it may have a few setbacks through rabies or distemper epidemics, but the potential of having larger populations of coyotes than we have now is real.

What can we do about too many coyotes? If the fur market is worth while, you can make a few dollars from the surplus crop of animals and hope that this eventually decreases the population to its normal level. At a normal level coyotes would have enough food and would not have to exert themselves by killing sheep. This method, like the bounty system, however, does not do much more than end up as a trade off in that the money a farmer gets for his extra work might cover the cost of the sheep he lost in the preceding fall.

Wildlife biologists in the West have tried using many kinds of chemo-sterilents, but the cost of packaging the pill and spreading enough throughout the range of the coyote so that the bitches get a proper dose just has not been economic to date.

One of our fellow wildlife biologists, under contract with the Alberta government and working north of Edmonton, found that coyotes simply spent their winters moving from one farm offal dump

to the next. He guessed that the populations would drop severely if these were cleaned up and suggested that the government get tough about offal disposal. The government did get tough, and now the farmers are happy because their losses are down near zero.

As I mentioned earlier, we really do not know that much about the eastern coyote and no one has objectively sorted out the severity of the problem. We must, for instance, catalogue and map kills made by coyotes, as well as those of dogs, or wolves, to see where the trouble spots are and then propose appropriate management practices.

The planning division of the Quebec Agricultural Research Council, with the aid of wildlife specialists, is trying to set research priorities and establish approaches to solve the most serious of our pest programs. Everyone acknowledges, for instance, that crops such as corn are extremely susceptible to bird, raccoon, and, in some cases, muskrat damage. Everyone knows that apple trees get barked by rodents and cotton-tails, budded by grouse and sometimes grosbeaks, and pruned back severely by deer. Every sheep farmer feels he is under the constant threat of losing his animals to coyotes, dogs, or wolves. The list does not stop here because there are always the localized problems relating to fox, bears, beaver, skunks, crows, pigeons, sparrows, and, yes, even weasels, which still can do some harm in the back yard hen house or on pheasant or duck farms where the animals are held in outdoor runs.

I wish that at this time I could prescribe some proven, cheap, quick method of avoiding further losses but I truthfully can not.

I can offer only two suggestions other than that of guarding the sheep or bringing them in at night: first, make sure your municipality keeps a clean dump with no rats, mice, or food that can help the excessive coyotes to survive winter. Do not dump offal in the back woods — bury it.

Second, agitate for strict bylaws concerning free-running dogs and get these bylaws backed with stiff fines or, better still, with prompt executions. As a veterinarian so aptly put it one day when a farmer complained about not being able to catch his dog to bring it in for its rabies vaccine, "If a dog doesn't stay at home or doesn't obey you, he is not earning his keep — shoot it." On the lighter side, Peter Hamilton, former professor in our Department of Animal Science and now Registrar of Nova Scotia Agricultural College, who knows a fair bit about sheep farming, once told me that to run a mean old billy goat with the ewes will discourage any local pests from harassing sheep and that anyone who had used that solution never had any more problems.

At the onset of this article I think it wise to set down a few important premises, most of which will be expounded in the following discussion. First, Macdonald College is concerned about farmers who have lost sheep, calves, and other livestock to either predators or dogs. The Staff in the Wildlife section of the Department of Renewable Resources are prepared to make every effort to help solve this most serious problem. Dr. Bider has already explained some of these efforts in the previous article. Second, there is a dire need to determine exactly what these predators are — they are not all wolves. Newspaper reports, radio and television discussions repeatedly refer to wolves, wolves, wolves and then slip in the term brush wolf. A brush wolf is a coyote, and if the animal in question proves to be a coyote then it is obvious that an entirely different species of animal is being unfairly maligned. The timber (or grey) wolf is also often blamed for the actions of coydogs — a cross between a coyote and a dog, for packs of wild dogs, or even for quiet, faithful farm dogs who, alone or in packs of six or seven, can become senseless killers of deer and livestock.

And now we come to the wolf. What follows is an account of four people's very personal feelings towards timber wolves in general and three wolves at Macdonald College in particular. It is their story but they tell it on behalf of the students now at Macdonald and those who have already graduated, many of the staff, the veterinarians who have contributed both time and medical advice, the hundreds of people, including young children, all across the country and even beyond its boundaries who have contributed money, and the countless children and adults who have consequently benefited from their donations. Most of all, they tell it for the wolves.

We would like to thank Dr. Roger Bider, Wildlife Biologist at Macdonald College, Mr. Bill Haldimand, well-known weatherman for radio station CJAD and for the CBC's television program "City at Six", Miss Patt Hall, former student and now secretary in the Wildlife office, and Miss Heidi Juul, a first-year student in Wildlife, for telling our readers about PAW — the Public Awareness of Wildlife project. (My questions will appear in italics.)



Introduction and interview by Hazel M. Clarke

Why was PAW started?

Roger Bider: Back in the early fall of 1972 the government declared special incentives for hunters who would hunt wolves. They were concerned with the declining deer population in certain areas — declining because of predators and overhunting. If the hunting wasn't successful, then the next step would have been to launch intensive trapping and finally poisoning programs. (As a result of public outcry, the poison idea was cancelled.) This campaign received a lot of publicity and aroused the interest of the renewable resource students and others. I listened to people discussing the problem and

it occurred to me that maybe we could do something about it. The idea was to build a wolf compound and stock it with at least a few of the wolves destined to die. These wolves would become the focal point of an education-information program on wolves. The idea seemed feasible, the students were enthusiastic, and we discussed it with several people. We set out our objectives, worked out a preliminary budget and realized we would need around \$25,000 to establish the project.

A group of students taking the Extension Communications course turned the idea into their class project. To quote from one of their reports: "... the time was ripe to do something about resolving the misconceptions surrounding the wolf. That the unselective and unnecessary slaughter of wolves by the government was not the correct scientific approach to the problem, and that the wolf was long overdue for research studies, were the main reasons for the birth of PAW."

The Wildlife Society, which was just getting organized on this campus, became the committee in charge. They manned the posts and got things done. There were numerous people involved in the early stages of collecting money. Many people didn't actually work with the wolves but were very instrumental in getting PAW going. We are very much indebted to countless people who contributed time, effort, and money.

Bill Haldimand: When I read the article about the government's wolf policy I hit the roof. I phoned Roger to get his reaction and heard what he was planning. I spoke to some of the people at CJAD and they suggested that I discuss it on air. Then they got on the bandwagon and when PAW started asking for funds they gave it plenty of air time. We had spot announcements, taped talks, and a two-hour evening broadcast on the Encounter program.

Macaza, the first timber wolf to arrive at Macdonald, spent his first few months in an unused hen house. Photo by Kevin O'Neil.

The film about wolves "Brother of the Wind" was being shown at different United Theatres and proceeds from different showings were turned over to PAW. The Film Box in Ste. Anne de Bellevue turned over the proceeds from one of its shows.

What was the public's reaction?

Roger: Donations came from all over the province — even as far away as Seven Islands. One donation came from the Philippines and many came from the United States. The syndicated press picked it up and the project was reported in the international papers. The students sought and received the support of many eminent wildlife authorities and other concerned groups and individuals. The campaign was a rousing success and we still get the odd donation. We must also mention that the Faculty of Agriculture has helped us out considerably. We've been able to build the compound, buy food, and provide facilities in which to store it. If the College hadn't helped us out, we would have had to continue our campaign for funds. One of the main reasons why PAW can now run itself is that we have no salaries. There is not a curator of wolves. People have been and still are pitching in on their own. Nobody charges for the use of their personal vehicle.

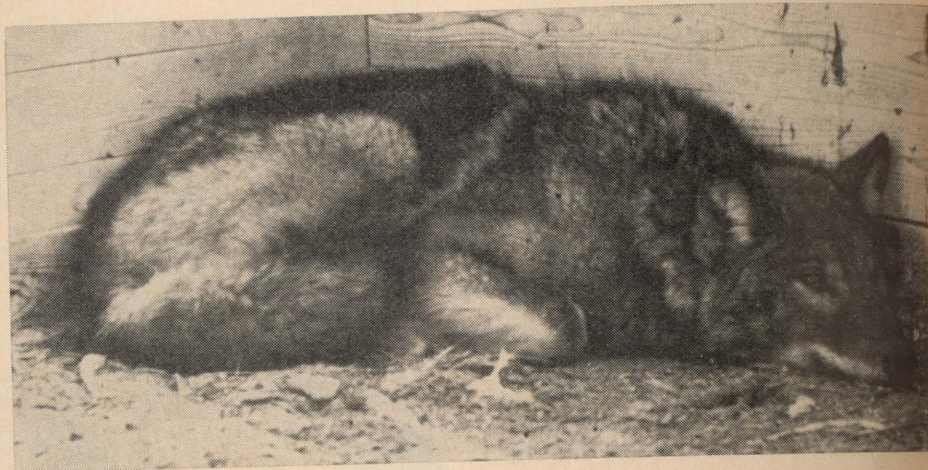
Bill: I had a letter from British Columbia and one from a girl in Israel with a donation. Her parents had told her about it. Word spread and the reaction was fantastic. The CBC international shortwave service did a broadcast with Roger and I. There was also a broadcast for CBC's Northern Services.

Was there any adverse reaction on the talk show?

Roger: Only three callers were against the project. One man was from the Eastern Townships and one from the Northwest Territories. The third caller, who lives near

the College, couldn't get through, but we talked to him later. We might have got more but urban people are more for wolves and most people who dislike them would be living in the country and would have had to call long distance.

When did the first wolf arrive?



Roger: We got Macaza, a timber wolf, in January 1973. Game wardens found him in a snare in the Macaza deer yard (hence his name) and, although he wasn't injured, he was absolutely terrified of humans. He still won't come near us. Macaza came before the compound was built so he spent the first few months in an unused chicken house. We put a border collie in with him for company. The relationship was quite a good one except that the dog, Bouboul, was just a little too rambunctious for the bewildered wolf. We estimated that he was about nine months old when he arrived, but let's let Heidi tell about Macaza.

Heidi Juul: During the time he was in the hen house I looked after his food and water. It was interesting watching his reaction and talking to people about it. I spent one entire night trying to see if he would eat, but the dog kept protecting the meat and I guess Macaza was just too terrified with me there to eat. We put him in the compound in May and he has adjusted pretty well. The dog was

in the compound with him for a while and has since found a wonderful home in the area.

Describe the compound for us?

Roger: The three-acre compound is in a partly wooded area near the entrance to the Morgan

Arboretum. It has a large, bushy field, some hawthorn bushes and maple woods. The land is not very good but it is ideal for wolves because of a gentle southeasterly slope which keeps it relatively dry, except for one corner where a little water comes through occasionally. The 12-foot chain-link fence has a foot overhang at the top and goes down at a 45-degree angle three feet into the ground. Wolves don't need much room really because they are a social animal so they pack up. If we get more, our main concern will be food. We could have 20 or 30 wolves in a compound that size — it might look beat up but socially speaking there would be no problem. I wouldn't like to see more than 10 in the compound. If we can solve the feeding problems we can certainly cope with the litters from either or both of the females if they have litters next spring.

Patt Hall: They eat approximately three pounds of meat per day per animal. We feed them every five days and I would say that

Part of the three-acre compound is open area giving the public an opportunity to see the wolves; the growth in the more easterly area provides the wolves with privacy and a more natural habitat. Photo by Peter Oomen.

Guy Melville, the student who is now looking after them, gives them about 40 pounds per week. We give them mostly beef, pork, poultry, that is not fit for human consumption, and road kills — deer and other wild animals.

Patt, tell us about Martha, the first female wolf to enter the compound.

Patt: Martha was born in captivity and given as a present to a man in New York City who was keeping her in his apartment. He had turned his dining room into a rumpus room for her but as house-training a wolf is difficult, we were asked if we would take her. When she arrived at the compound Heidi stayed the weekend with her to help her get adjusted to living in the compound.

Heidi: I think the first thing Martha found was some very old cowhide. She stank! (I don't think anyone would have got within five feet of me, either.) I was putting away groceries in a tent we had there and she kept running in and out peering around. She saw the grocery bag, shoved her head in it and came up with a loaf of bread and some salami and off she went outside. That was my supper gone. After she had eaten she was extremely submissive, whining and whimpering. Then back she came into the tent and off again with something else. I learned lesson number one. She'll take anything within reach and play with it. The compound is full of mitts, gloves, and other things she has swiped from people. She came into the tent only a few times during the night; mostly she was outside with Macaza running back and forth. There were no problems of adjustment — she was very contented to be outside.

Roger: Now we have another female, Labelle, from the same area as Macaza. She was trapped with a leghold and her foot was very badly mangled. We got her stitched up and had a cast put on the leg immediately. That was



about six months ago, and her leg has healed nicely.

When the PAW project started I remember what a friend told me about the wolf compound in Chicago's Brookfield Zoo. He said that the greatest experience he had was going into the compound with the kids and playing with one of the tame wolves. This encounter between man and wolf can be a singular and important experience for a human being. That is what PAW, and Martha in particular, has enabled us to achieve.

Patt: That's the beauty of it — that is what PAW is all about. It puts the animal in its proper perspective. At the same time that children and adults can touch Martha they can see Macaza and Labelle running through the compound. They can get an idea of what the animal is like in the wild at the same time as they have this touch contact. It equates the two.

And for those who can't come to the compound then Martha goes on tour.

Patt: Yes. Most of her tours have been great but one of the first was nearly a fiasco. Martha was asked to Humber College in Ontario for their open house. We were told that there would be an outdoor pen with a shelter and a nine-foot fence around it. The trip down was long and Martha, who had shared the back seat with Heidi and I, was getting

edgy. Unknown to our hosts, it turned out that Martha was to stay in a cage about six feet by five feet high, totally of wood with one little screen window. It was right next to a pen used by a man to keep big cats while training them for zoos. It was dirty, wet, and smelt of these poor animals. It seemed criminal to put Martha in there but after about 20 minutes of steamy debate we did so and she just went nuts. Fortunately wonderful friends from Humber who were redoing their home had an unheated room which they let Martha use and it was just perfect.

Heidi: We went to the open house, gave a lecture on wolves and showed off Martha. A number of people were extremely interested and from then on everything went fine.

Patt: Some of the reactions were incredible. One girl turned to her friend and said that she was really disappointed: "I was expecting to see this snarling, foaming-at-the-mouth creature lunging at his leash and doing all kinds of weird things." Two or three others were also disappointed at not seeing an almost uncontrollable animal with brave young students handling her. After that trip we decided not to go anywhere unless one of us first checked the place.

Heidi: If Martha had stayed in that cage, she would have become so terrified and distrustful of people we would have been unable to handle her or take her anywhere.

Top: Heidi Judi can readily testify to the affection and curiosity of a tame, young raccoon.
 Bottom: Bill Haldimand enjoying a friendly tug-of-war with Martha, a tame wolf born in captivity.
 Photo by Peter Oomen.



She has never had any mistreatment. We go mostly to the West Island and Montreal area now.

Patt: The children's reaction is simply beautiful. The younger children seem the most responsive, and the more interested people are, the more responsive she is. You get a lot of condescending attitudes from people 35 to 40 upwards who say, "Oh yes, that's very nice; you're doing great" but they really aren't interested.

Bill: I wonder if it's a case of lack of interest or fear. The first time I took her to a father and son banquet at the Boy Scout headquarters we showed the NFB film by Bill Mason "Death of a Legend" and then brought out Martha. I suggested that the boys, who were about 9 to 14, file past and pat Martha. As it was warm, Martha was pretty quiet but each kid that came along got the full treatment — all the affection she could give. After that I invited the leaders to come up and see the wolf. And just one in the whole room — a girl who was a cub leader — came up and patted Martha.



Heidi: But kids aren't like that. I took Martha to a school in Westmount last spring. The children, in grades I and II, were sitting in a circle on the gym floor. When Martha saw them I could hardly hold her. All I could say was don't be afraid and then tell them what to expect from her. She went around the circle licking the kids, knocking them down — just wolf and kids together. During the question period she lay quietly in the middle of the circle. At the end I said, "Say goodbye to Martha" and all the little voices said "Goodbye Martha" and about 30 children charged up to her. All you could see was her tail sticking up in the air, and by the time I got the kids away there was Martha lying on her back with a great big happy expression on her face.

"Martha on tour is always a success, particularly with young children," says Patt Hall, seen here with three young cubs. Photo by Ralph Emery.

I believe you had a special project last summer; was it successful?

Heidi: It was. Our Local Initiatives Program and an Opportunities for Youth Program gave summer jobs to several students and allowed us to obtain more animals to take on tours, and to produce French and English versions of booklets on "The Crow", "The Peregrine Falcon", and "The Wolf", and a colouring book featuring all the animals that we took on tour — raccoons, a fox, skunks, a weasel, a crow, a woodchuck, kestrels, snakes, turtles, and a pigeon. The children can colour in the animals. It was a fabulous success. These books are still available in limited quantity.

I remember one tour to a Grade XI class in a city school. The teacher told us afterwards that many of the kids came from broken homes or had alcoholic parents. He said he'd known some of them for four years and it was the first time he's seen them smile and open up. They were feeding the raccoons from baby bottles, petting the fox, watching the crow. The interaction the kids had with the animals gave them something they couldn't learn in school.

Turtles and snakes were the most popular. One of the girls working on the project once explained to a little girl who was handling a turtle that its shell was like its house. She looked at the

turtle and then at her and asked, "Does it have chairs inside it?" So many beautiful little statements like that make it all worth while. Not only did the children relate to the animals but they also learned at the same time.

Roger: The great thing in all this is that the animal makes no demands.

Heidi: Right. Apart from the educational benefits, using wild animals in this way makes people more like people. It brings them out, causing them to relate to things outside their own sphere. I've found this to be true when I've taken Martha to schools, especially to inner-city school. As I was brought up on a farm,



the reaction of city children is of particular interest to me.

Roger: I'm thinking of what we talked about before. Of convincing the adults. It's a difficult thing. What it amounts to is a very personal approach. Many people say, "They're just wolves out there in the compound. What do you do with them? There's no organization, it's very loose." But when you are in the compound and talking to people, all of a sudden you realize that many of them have a personal thing going with Martha or the other wolves. There are people who ritually come to see them.

Patt: One woman comes every Sunday with an expensive roast for Martha. That woman is getting a lot of satisfaction even though it makes things difficult for us. Feeding the wolves is something we are trying to discourage not only for future research studies but also because we cannot control what they are eating.

Bill: You asked about convincing the adults. Some people are just paranoid about wolves. There is no way you can change their minds. Maybe they have other hangups, too — everybody does. They just stubbornly refuse to accept certain facts. Many people are afraid of all animals. It isn't confined to wolves and there is nothing you can do about it.

Patt: You can't help but expect it in the case of wolves. People have been brought up with the idea that they are vicious animals. I spend a lot of time on farms — I know. It is difficult to convince a man who has worked very hard most of his life raising animals that the creature he believes to be a wolf is not one. He thinks it is. His father said it is and his grandfather said it is.

Roger: Getting through to the rural public will be a slow process, but I think it is feasible. Things have got to be put in their proper perspective. I'm not saying that

wolves don't do any harm.

Are we at Macdonald prepared to go to the Lachute area, for instance, where sheep farmers are giving up their businesses because they say predators — and they are certainly implying that they are wolves — are killing their sheep? Or down to the Townships?

Bill: Each and every one of these incidents where an animal is killed or torn should be checked out by the proper experts.

Patt: If we are to go into these areas, with or without Martha, we must have a documented report that will support us, particularly when we are confronted with a farmer who has just lost sheep. Just as we do not want the wolf shouldering the blame for other animals, neither do we want to point the finger at the coyote unless we have documented evidence.

Roger: People are beginning to say that the coyote is being picked on and somebody better start defending him. I'd be the first to defend coyotes on the Island of Montreal. We have some on the farm here right now and they've bothered absolutely nothing. But back to the actual kills. You have to see each carcass to determine what killed it. Two points. One we are aware of the problems. I've been involved in a court case defending a farmer who lost sheep. I was a witness for him and we won the case. We know there is a problem. We have applied to the Quebec Department of Agriculture for support to do research on predators and farms and particularly on the question of the coyote in relation to sheep farmers.

We have groups of farmers on campus all the time. I met 15 or 20 of them from the QFA one day while Macaza was still in the hen house. We had a good, friendly discussion and I think we got the story straight. They know what we are doing, and I feel

I knew what they were talking about. One day we happened to have a coyote in the freezer when a group were in. It was brought in from a farm in the Eastern Townships, and incidentally, was full of apples. This gave the men an opportunity to see one and compare it to animals they see at home.

Bill: In the current Quebec trapping program snares and traps are set in farming districts. Has anyone kept statistics on the take?

Roger: Each district biologist should have them. If a farmer requests it, a predator control person will go and try to trap out the animals. I know that they had a predator control man in the Danville area where over 30 sheep had been lost. The problem with coyotes is becoming more serious because the animals are moving farther east into our real sheep country. It is not real sheep country around here, but up around Rimouski you are right in the heart of sheep country and the coyotes are just about there.

Heidi: But a lot of trouble is with dogs. I talked to a Game Warden in the Townships and he told me that many times there, especially with the summer homes, every Spot and Fido will get together in a pack and run the deer. It must also apply to sheep and cattle. This, I think, is a major problem.

Roger: It is a major problem. One of the things we want to find out is what constitutes a wolf kill, a coyote kill, a coydog kill, a dog kill. This information is not difficult to gather but you have to put a lot of people out into the field and you have to spend some money, but it's got to be done. You can isolate the different areas, you can isolate the packs that are causing the problems — the hot spots of coyotes where there are coyotes. You can see what might have to be done in certain circumstances. You might have to decide that you have to thin a certain species out a bit.

Research and field work has to be done. We have to provide the public with more information. What we are trying to do, and initially what the PAW program was trying to do, is not to convince you that wolves won't eat a cow but rather that wolves have a lot of other things going for them and are not responsible for all the damage that is done.

Patt: Can much of the responsibility fall on dogs?

Roger: Yes, especially in deer yards near towns or cottages, as at Mont Tremblant, and with sheep near villages. This has happened time and time again.

Could wolves become extinct?

Roger: There are all kinds of gene pools. In other words, you have a little race of wolves in one area and larger ones in another. There are smaller wolves in the south and larger wolves as you go north. There is a distinctive group of wolves in the Laurentians and in southern Ontario — the Algonquin Park area — and if all of these were eliminated, some genes would be lost and some animals that make their living in a certain way would be lost.

As for wolves in total over North America, I don't think there is a worry about their becoming extinct.

Where does PAW go from here?

Roger: Let more people see the wolves. Now that we have recreation specialists here on campus, we plan to try to use the wolves for interpretation and to find out more about how to get concepts across. How people react to the kinds of things we're doing. We have to formalize this by projects and specific hours for open house. We're looking for a better formula for presenting the wolf case to the people.

Bill: It's a case of awareness. Awareness is just in its infancy but it is growing.

Roger: We already have many people who are spokesmen for something — and that is what we are. We're spokesmen for wolves.

Final comments

Bill: I've learned a great deal about this animal. I knew something about wildlife before as I spent a great deal of time in the country and was an avid deer hunter, but a lot of what I knew was nonsense. I had the classical idea of wolves, but since reading about these animals and getting to know them, I've formed a completely different opinion of them. Maybe I'm not as objective as I should be about them. Maybe I'm too subjective. They certainly are not the slaving beasts that most people think they are. That sums up my final opinion which applies not only to wolves but also to many aspects of wildlife. People have a complete misunderstanding, from tales that have been handed down through generations, about bears, about deer, about moose. Particularly the larger animals but even the smaller ones. We're learning more. I'm learning more about my surroundings. I was always aware of them but not in the same way.

Heidi: I think PAW is a small part of a bigger thing that is starting to develop. In a broader sense people are becoming more aware of their surroundings and there are more and more organizations and people concerned with preserving certain areas and different things outside the man-made world. Besides the educational and recreational value PAW has for people, it is helping to bring about this greater awareness.

Patt: I feel the same. Like Bill, I went into PAW knowing relatively little and I find it wonderful to have been able to learn and at the same time to help people understand. The more you get involved the more you find out about other people doing the same thing all over the country. I hope

PAW will continue to be as successful as it has been and that everyone will benefit from it. It's something that has to be done.

Why at Macdonald?

Roger: The fact that all farmers have problems with wildlife is the very reason we should be involved. Who else is going to do it? Who else is going to be interested in the farmer's problems?



Martha

Since this interview took place a young, four-or-five-month old wolf has been brought to the College from the La Verendrye area. When found, the pup was close to death as a result of malnutrition, dehydration, and a severe case of hook worms. Under a veterinarian's care, she is now in good shape and ready to meet Martha. It is hoped that the influence of the tame wolf will rub off on this young, wild animal, thus making it easier to study its behaviour and its reactions to humans. In the interview, Heidi mentions the booklet "The Wolf". If you would like to know more about this animal in the wild, I would suggest writing to the Wildlife Department for a copy. The booklet also contains an excellent list of literature on the wolf. The logo on page 5 was designed by Wyb Hoek. Artwork is by Steve Tinker.

The Family

Farm

Published in the interests of the farmers of the province by the Quebec Department of Agriculture

AID FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PEDIGREED SEED

In view of the growing demand for high-quality seed specially recommended by the Quebec Plant Productions Council and of its high cost, the Department of Agriculture pays a subsidy of: \$4 per acre for the production of pedigreed seed which is to be graded and sealed with a view to the production of such seed in Quebec by farmers who are members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

This subsidy is designed to interest seed growers in varieties of cereals, soybeans, timothy, and red clover which are suitable for Quebec and recommended by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

Together with his claim, the grower must submit to the Grants and Subsidies Division, 200 chemin Ste-Foy, Québec, a copy of the crop certificate issued by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association showing the quantities graded and sealed by the Plant Products Division or any other body so authorized.

Growers whose crop cannot be sealed must submit the reason or reasons, for study.

This assistance policy replaces the preceding one and will remain in force until further notice.

EXCERPT FROM THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ACT

Article 18a. Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain

a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

Promotion of Sheep Rearing (Aid for the Genetic Improvement of Sheep)

AIM: This program is designed to improve the genetic potential of sheep as regards prolificacy, precocity, and hardiness, through the use of the triple-cross method.

It is also designed to improve the sanitary and hygienic conditions of flocks generally and to produce sheep with the best possible assurance of the health which is essential to getting maximum benefit from the hereditary merits of good breeding stock.

In addition, the program is designed to develop flocks large enough to make sheep-rearing a paying enterprise — with due regard to the particular conditions of the farm on which they are raised.

METHODS:

1. Classing sheep-rearers into three separate categories: breeders of foundation stock; hybridizers or breeders of half-breds; and

market-lamb producers (triple-crossers).

2. This program lays special emphasis on the vigour of scientifically bred and selected hybrids.

3. Promoting the improvement of sanitary and health conditions through official surveillance of those flocks on which the success of our sheep industry in Quebec depends.

4. Promoting the formation of large enough flocks — this is essential if the sheep raiser is to take enough interest to become a real specialist.

5. Formation of an Advisory Committee on Sheep-rearing in Quebec, composed of representatives of the Quebec Purebred Sheep Breeders Association, the federal and provincial departments of Agriculture, Laval University, and the Institute of Agricultural Technology at La Pocatière, to be responsible for preparing and applying performance testing regulations. These methods are dealt with in greater detail in the five programs described below, i.e.: performance testing of sheep flocks on the farm, performance testing of rams at the Station, subsidy for wintering flocks, aid to buy tested rams, and the placement of Finnish Landrace rams.

KINDS OF SHEEP RAISING ENTERPRISES:

Foundation Flocks

These are flocks of sheep with tested and transmissible heritable traits. There are about 40 such breeders in the Province and the average size of their flocks is 30 ewes. As regards the breed kept, their percentage distribution is as follows:

Suffolk	33%
Dorset	28%
North Country Cheviot	12%
Oxford	11%
Leicester	10%
Hampshire	4%
Shropshire	1%

Breeding of half-breds (hybridizing)

This involves making cross-matings between tested animals of different breeds. The recommended crosses are as follows:

North Country Cheviot	♂	X Leicester ♀	= F ₁
Dorset	♂	X Leicester ♀	= F ₁
Dorset	♂	X North Country Cheviot ♀	= F ₁

Note: All male offspring of these matings go for slaughter and the female offspring are sold to market lamb producers (triple-crossers).

Market lamb production (triple-crossing)

This is the production of market lambs by mating halfbred ewes to a ram reared by a foundation-stock breeder. In this case the recommended crosses are as follows:

Hampshire	♂ X F ₁ ♀ = F ₂
Oxford	♂ X F ₁ ♀ = F ₂
Suffolk	♂ X F ₁ ♀ = F ₂

Note: In principle, all F₂ animals should be sent to market but because of the shortage of young F₁ ewes and hence the difficulty of replacing them, F₂ females may be

used for breeding for a few years on strict condition that the ram from the foundation stock is well chosen.

PERFORMANCE TESTING OF SHEEP FLOCKS ON THE FARM

Eligibility:

1. Any foundation breeder in Quebec having at least 20 registered ewes all belonging to a single one of the breeds mentioned below is eligible;

- The following breeds will be accepted: North Country Cheviot, Leicester, Oxford, Suffolk, Hampshire, and Dorset. Other breeds may be accepted with the advisory committee's approval.
- Breeders of half-breds (hybridizers) who obtained Finnish Landrace rams in the fall of 1972.
- All sheep will be tattooed.

Undertakings by the breeder

- To enroll all his bearing ewes;
- Record all the births in his flock;
- Record all the deaths in his flock;
- Keep a card-index and a complete register on the flock and have a good weigh-scale;
- Weigh all lambs at birth;
- Weigh the fleece of each ewe at their first shearing.

Criteria for rating

Daily gain, fleece weight, type of birth (twins, etc.), conformation.

Flock rating indexes

- Ram lamb and ewe lamb index;
- Ram lamb and ewe lamb conformation.

PERFORMANCE TESTING OF RAMS AT THE STATION

Eligibility:

The station's facilities are available only to sheep raisers who:

- Keep one of the following breeds; Hampshire, Leicester, North Country Cheviot, Oxford, or Suffolk. Other breeds may be admitted later, on the Advisory Committee's recommendation;
- Own flocks participating in the performance testing of sheep flocks on the farm.

General regulations:

- The station is operated in conformity with the conditions of the Canadian ROP ram testing stations program;
- Only ram lambs weighing between 25 and 50 pounds on their arrival at the station will be admitted;
- Not more than eight ram lambs per breeder will be admitted into the station;
- Animals will be admitted to the station on set dates: 15th of March, 15th of April, 15th of May, 15th of June;
- The test period will begin following an adjustment interval lasting 10 to 14 days after arrival at the station;

6. Testing begins at an initial weight of 40 to 55 pounds and is continued for 84 days or until the animal weighs 100 pounds, whichever is sooner;
7. No tests will be continued at the station after September 30th.
8. All ram lambs enrolled for testing at the station must be docked, and free from abnormalities.
9. If the number of applications for testing exceeds the station's capacity, the final decision as to admissions will be left to the Committee;
10. The Department of Agriculture will buy the ram lambs for \$25 and, at the end of the test, will resell the rams which have passed the test for \$40 each.

Health:

1. Flocks from which the ram lambs come must be free from contagious diseases;
2. Preventive treatment (vitamin E and selenium) against muscular dystrophy will be given at the farm;
3. An adequate supply of vitamin A will fortify young animals against infection;
4. On arriving at the station, every ram lamb will be inoculated against shipping fever and, within the next few days, will be vaccinated against enterotoxemia and treated against external and internal parasites.

Notification of results:

Following the close of testing, the situation will issue a report on daily gain with an index showing rating in comparison with the other animals of the same breed at the station.

GRANTS TO BUY TESTED QUEBEC RAM LAMBS AND EWE LAMBS

Eligibility:

1. As regards the buyer
Be an agricultural producer within the meaning of Bill 64;
Be a farmer and submit an application on the proper form together with the animal's registration certificate, to the livestock adviser of the regional office within the three months following the date of purchase.
2. as regards the ram lambs and ewe lambs
 - a) only ram lambs and ewe lambs raised in Quebec in their flock of origin are eligible;
 - b) only ram lambs and ewe lambs tested on the farm or at a station are eligible;
 - c) only ram lambs and ewe lambs rated good or better are eligible;
 - d) only ram lambs and ewe lambs which have made a score equal to 100 per cent of their flock average and 90 per cent of the provincial average for their breed (based on the past three years) are eligible;
 - e) an animal can only be subsidized once.

GRANTS

Ram lambs and ewe lambs

Index	Amount
100-110	\$25
111 or over	\$35

PLACEMENT OF FINNISH LANDRACE RAMS

Aim: To improve the prolificacy of our ewes.

Method: In order to follow up the placement of 40 Finnish rams

carried out in the fall of 1971 the Department will buy, for \$35 each, five F₁ females begotten by each of these rams so as to form a flock of 200 in one place. These females will be mated with Oxford rams.

All requests for information should be made to the Livestock Productions Division, Department of Agriculture, 200 Chemin Ste-Foy, Quebec G1A 1E4.

AID TO PRODUCE REPLACEMENT EWES

The Department is particularly anxious to maintain and promote sheep rearing in suitable regions. This program is designed to improve flocks by means of adequate yearling replacement ewes considered suitable for breeding. It goes hand in hand with the flock wintering grant.

Eligibility conditions:

1. Be a recognized agricultural producer within the meaning of Bill 64;
2. Enrol on the proper forms at the local agricultural office during the wintering period;
3. Meet the requirements of regional programming as regards location of the farm;
4. Own at least 20 ewes;
N.B. The provisions of this program will be applicable to yearling ewes wintered in 1974-75;
5. Be a member in good standing of the regional sheep breeders' association or of the Quebec Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association;
6. Keep a flock register;
7. Have a sheep-shed whose dimensions and equipment are in accordance with technical principles;

8. Have his ewes bred to registered rams;
9. Feed his flock adequately.

Assistance

1. Aid for producing ewes

The Department will make a grant of \$40 at the rate of \$10 a year for every yearling ewe added to the breeding flock, on condition that she remains in the flock and that the Department's personnel or the sheep specialists employed by the Quebec sheep federation consider her suitable for breeding. The number of yearling ewes so subsidized shall not exceed 200 per breeder per year and the total amount of the subsidy, including the wintering grant, shall not exceed \$2,000 a year.

In the eastern Quebec regions, in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Saguenay-Lake St. John, the number of subsidized yearling ewes shall not exceed 300 per breeder per year and the total amount of the subsidy, including the wintering grant, shall not exceed \$3,000 a year. Agro-forestry groups may receive this subsidy and in their case there is no limit to the number of subsidized ewes or to the maximum amount of the grant.

2. Aid for wintering sheep

During the next four years, the Department will grant assistance to any sheep breeder with 50 or more ewes, including, in eastern Quebec, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, and Saguenay-Lake St. John, the agro-forestry groups. The said assistance will take the form of a

gradually diminishing grant per ewe, as follows:

1974-75	\$5
1975-76	\$4
1976-77	\$3
1977-78	\$2

The grant is contingent upon fulfilment of the above-mentioned eligibility conditions by the sheep breeder.

Financial Aid to the Quebec Sheep Breeders' Federation

AIM: Recognizing the need to raise the technical level of sheep-breeding to ensure reasonable profitability, and considering that sheep breeders are very scattered and thus little stimulated and motivated by mutual contacts, and that the Quebec Department of Agriculture's sheep programs require steady surveillance for their application, the Minister of Agriculture is pleased to grant the Quebec Breeders' Federation financial help to attain the prescribed objectives.

FINANCIAL AID: The Quebec Sheep Breeders' Federation will receive an annual grant of \$36,000 to engage three competent sheep specialists qualified to improve sheep breeders' methods, knit breeders more closely together through regular visits, and help them to apply the Department's program.

REQUIREMENTS:

1) The Quebec Sheep Breeders' Federation must:

a) submit a report of its annual activities;

b) furnish an official financial report of operations;

c) collaborate with the Quebec Department of Agriculture and lamb marketing agencies to promote and develop sheep raising in Quebec;

d) Hire three sheep specialists.

2) The sheep specialists engaged must:

a) have an agricultural technologist's diploma or a recognized sheep specialist's diploma;

b) work in recognized sheep regions as and where need be;

c) collaborate with the Quebec Department of Agriculture and the lamb marketing agencies.

The calendar year is considered as a year of operations or activities.

FEET AND LEG PROBLEMS MORE COMMON WITH CONFINEMENT PIG REARING

Today's fast-growing pigs, raised indoors, are more likely to have aching feet than did their range-reared, slow-growing ancestors, according to a Ridgeway College of Agricultural Technology livestock specialist. "Selection for the meat-type pig may be producing pigs that become too heavy for their immature skeletons to support," J. R. Morris explains. Careful selection, feeding, and management by swine producers can alleviate this problem.

When replacing stock, farmers should consider good bone quality as well as rapid gains. In addition, because disproportionate claw size contributes to more injuries

to the outside claw, farmers should avoid gilts and boars with small inside toes. Experts believe the degree of difference in claw size is inherited.

"Lower feed:gain ratios in today's pigs have resulted in less net calcium and phosphorus intake for a given amount of weight gain," Mr. Morris says. The reduced intake of calcium and phosphorus may be the greatest factor in producing leg and feet abnormalities. For growing pigs, he recommends diets containing .75 per cent calcium, .65 per cent phosphorus and 300 IU vitamin D per pound of feed.

Claw injuries can be reduced if careful attention is given to the sloping and finish of concrete floors. Totally slotted floors cause more wear and tear to feet than 25 per cent slotted floors. Exposed aggregate and chipped floor edges should be avoided because they increase the hazard of foot damage.

(From the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

PROMOTION OF BEEKEEPING

(Saguenay-Lake St. John)

The Saguenay-Lake St. John region is recognized as one of the good Quebec honey regions. The honey therefrom is considered high quality.

Wishing to promote diversification of the regional agricultural production while more closely consolidating beekeeping, the Quebec Department of Agriculture offers,

under the ARDA III Agreement, financial aid to producers who engage in agricultural production and meet the conditions of the following two-year program.

1. OBJECTIVE

The aim of this program is to make the regional agriculture more profitable by promoting more efficient use of available resources through diversification of agricultural production.

2. AIMS

- Increase the number of apicultural producers and also the number of hives per producer;
- Increase yields and profitability of apicultural production;
- Give farmers an opportunity to develop sources of additional revenue right on the farm.

3. FINANCIAL AID

The Department pays farmers starting in apicultural production, or those who agree to increase their present production, a subsidy of \$25 per acquired hive. The subsidy is applicable only to **new material**.

4. ELIGIBILITY

To benefit from this policy, the beekeeper must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) Agree to keep accounts and supply the data required by Department officials;
- b) New producers must acquire a minimum of 20 hives. Financial aid is limited to 30 hives, i.e. to \$750;
- c) Established producers must acquire at least 20 hives. Financial aid is limited to 50 hives, i.e. to \$1,250.

Anyone who benefits from this program as a new producer in 1974-75 will be considered as an established producer in 1975-76.

5. APPLICATION

Producers who wish to avail themselves of the financial aid provided under this program must apply to their local agronomist on the Department's official form.

6. PAYMENT

Subsidies are paid upon presentation of vouchers, duly dated, after checking by the official in charge of the program.

This Month with the



A View of Gatineau

Gatineau County takes its name from the Gatineau River that runs through it for 100 miles from north to south. There are many lakes and mountains in the area and the scenery is beautiful. Many city people have summer homes in Gatineau, and in winter it is a skiing paradise.

There are three W.I. branches in the County: Aylmer, Rupert, and Wright.

The area around Aylmer is no longer rural as many farms have been sold to construction companies that are now building new housing complexes. Although there are still members on farms, most of the members live in the town of Aylmer. Some retired members have moved to Ottawa but still keep up their affiliation with their branch and are regular attendants. "Grandmothers' Meeting" is still a popular get together.

Another enjoyable function is serving tea and cookies at the Ottawa Winter Fair. Gatineau County serves for one night and other Institutes from Ontario serve on other nights.

Market gardening takes the place of large farms in the Aylmer area, and there are many roadside stands where travellers may purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from spring until fall.

Educational facilities are excellent. There are three English Protestant schools and a very large high school at Hull with a staff of 90 teachers. Many varied courses are offered here — from typing to

mechanics. Pupils from Rupert and Wright also attend high school at Hull. They have their own local elementary schools.

The W.I. members of the whole area still follow with great interest the many adult education courses — sewing, crocheting, ceramics, etc — that are available every fall and winter.

Rupert, approximately 20 miles north of Aylmer, is in a farming area. One special event here is the annual fall Horse Show. This attracts crowds from all the surrounding area.

Rupert W.I. members are active supporters of the Wakefield hospital and also care for the Rupert Union Cemetery, planting many beautiful flowers every year and seeing that the grass is cut and flowers cared for.

The W.I. members of Wright branch are connected with farming but are also busy with the tourist trade due to the numerous lakes in this area. They have many projects and are especially concerned with the sick and shut-ins and remember them with "sunshine boxes".

This is just a brief outline of the many resources in this area. Visitors are cordially invited to join with the Women's Institutes, and to learn more about the work that is being carried on year after year by them.

A Celebration

Abbotsford W.I. (Rouville County) celebrated its 45th Anniversary

with approximately 35 members and friends enjoying a delicious meal at the recently opened "Ponderosa" Steak House in Granby.

The tables were decorated with arrangements of sweet peas. Before eating, the group sang the Ode and Mrs. W. Edwards pronounced grace.

The Charter members were wearing corsages and were seated at the head table with the President of the Cercle des Fermières, Mrs. V. Barber as guest. The Charter members are: Mrs. N. Honey (First President), Mrs. R. Thomson, Miss M. Marshall, Mrs. W. Mitchell, Mrs. R. Coates and Mrs. W. Rayson. After a few words from Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Rayson and Mrs. Gillespie, the group thanked the President, Mrs. Rayson, for planning this event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Cookshire Fair Project

This year the members of Compton County Woman's Institutes chose to have a display of quilts as their annual Cookshire Fair Booth Project. The Agriculture Conveners of the seven branches of the County were in charge, assisted by other members.

There were 16 finished quilts on display, and one on the frames showing how quilting is done. Several books on quilt-making were shown along with two books of old quilt blocks that had been entered in a Tweedsmuir contest several years ago by the Sawyerville and East Angus Branches.

Among the quilts shown were

"Provincial Flowers", "Churn Dash", "Endless Chain", Maple Leaf", "Dresden Plate", Crazy Patchwork" using silk and satin pieces, "Star", "Friendship Quilt".

There were two guessing contests. One was to guess the number of pieces in a patchwork quilt and the other the number of beans in the jar. The proceeds from these contests went towards the Compton County W.I. Bursaries.

This proved to be a most interesting booth, as the quilts were all definitely a work of art.

Garden Party

The Garden Party is an annual affair in *Austin* (Brome Co.), and for the two days before everyone is busy taking tables and articles to the Town Hall. The tables are set up and covered with paper tablecloths ready for the displays. The day before is baking day — pies, cakes, cookies, breads, etc. Pickles and jams are set aside.

On the Garden Party day, doors open at 2:30 p.m. In the morning everyone is busy arranging tables and attending to last minute touches. Once the doors open, there is a wild dash to the "Home Cooking" and "Nearly New" rooms. Outside ice cream and soft drinks are for sale, and along the verandahs there are tables and shelves with old books and library discards for sale. There are chairs here for those who need a rest.

Tickets are drawn for prizes and in the sewing rooms one hears requests for certain articles that were sold out before the person got there. Perhaps they can be made

specially? or will there be some next year?

Finally, with a sigh, the tired members pack up the few things left, and head for home, happy that another successful Garden Party is over.

"Portraits" of Four Conveners

Mrs. J. L. Henderson

Mrs. Henderson, Provincial Convener of Education, was born in Cobalt, a mining town in northern Ontario. She moved to Val d'Or, Quebec, when that town was just beginning in 1935. She married her husband, a Gaspé man, there, and they moved back to the Gaspé coast 28 years ago. They live on the farm her husband was born on and raise beef cattle. Like most of us, Mrs. Henderson has a garden and is busy freezing "everything that comes in sight". They have one son who is married and lives quite near.

Mrs. Henderson is a Charter Member of the Black Cape W.I. and has served in most of the offices in the branch since it began in 1949. She has been County President for two years.

Her interests are varied. She does a lot of handicrafts, is interested in the Gaspesian Cultural Association, and does volunteer work in the handicraft boutique in New Richmond in her spare time. We welcome Mrs. Henderson to the Q.W.I. Board and wish her well in her convenership.

Reda Lewis

Born in Cowansville, Quebec, and lived there until 1957 when, with

my family moved to Sutton so my husband could take over his family farm. We have four children — a daughter and son married and a son and daughter still at home. We have three grandchildren. Our daughter is working in the local bank and our son is in insurance and working the farm with my husband who is semi-retired. My family keeps me busy so am home now, but I did work for 10 years in our local school cafeteria.

I am a Charter Member of the Fordyce Women's Institute which was organized in November 1946 and have held all offices and convenerships except Secretary. In Missisquoi County I have served as President and Treasurer and am now Provincial Welfare and Health Convener. (After moving to Sutton I still continued to drive back each month to the Fordyce branch meeting. Sutton also has a W.I. and I often join them for their meetings.)

I have a large garden and do a great deal of freezing vegetables and making pickles. My greatest interest is cooking, and I still do catering and custom baking. I go into the home and arrange buffet tables and cocktail parties. My two daughters have inherited this art and have helped me greatly. I also enjoy reading, knitting, and embroidery work. I belong to the United Church and am Secretary for one unit of the U.C.W. Before coming to Sutton I was a Sunday School teacher, worked in a Young People's group, and was also active in Home and School.



Mrs. Gordon French

Lavina French, Citizenship Convener as of last May, served three years as Agriculture Convener. I found it very interesting. I have made the Book of Memory for Q.W.I., which is now in the Archives at Ottawa, at the time of our 50th Anniversary. I have been President of East Clifton, and worked in several convenerhips at branch and county level and President of Compton County for one term.

I live on a farm two miles from Sawyerville on Route 27 to the U.S.A. border. Am the mother of five children and have eleven grandchildren. At present I am busy preparing fruits and vegetables for the freezer and larder. The wet summer gave us shortages in some produce but abundance in others. After duties of home, I have been Superintendent of two Sunday Schools and now have the grandchildren of my first students. I teach Forgotten Arts which includes quilting, hairpin lace, old recipes, and local history. Was a news reporter for the Macdonald College Journal and other farm publications. Enjoyed the old programs of Farm Forum and am now a listening member of the Quebec Farmers' Association.

Mrs. Walter Kilgour

Mrs. Walter Kilgour, Q.W.I. Convener of Agriculture, was born at Shawville, Que. She went to school there and attended Business College in Ottawa.

In 1943 she married Walter Kilgour and moved onto the family farm where they now live.



Mrs. Kilgour joined the Clarendon W.I. in 1945 and besides serving on all branch convenerhips she has twice been branch president. She has also served in the County as Convener of Agriculture, Welfare and Health, and Education and as President. At present she is branch Secretary. Her County (Pontiac) presented her with a Life Membership in recognition of her work in the County.

Mrs. Kilgour takes a keen interest in the Shawville United Church; and has served as Area-Vice President of Ottawa Presbyterial U.C.W. She is active in community work and does secretarial work for the Shawville Fair Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Kilgour have two daughters and one son. The son is on the family farm in partnership with his father. Both daughters are married and there are two grandchildren.

Education

Now that schools have opened for another year, I can't help but wonder how many students are facing this term happy, satisfied, and determined to make this a good year or how many are grumbling, growling, and dissatisfied.

I sat listening to our Minister as he spoke to us a few weeks ago and one word he used that caught my attention was the word "opportunity". I'm going to borrow that word and add a few thoughts of my own.

How many of us realize just how many wonderful opportunities we do have to educate ourselves in so many ways?



Schools today are a far cry from what they were even a generation ago. Children have more to work with than was available in their parents' time and yet I sometimes wonder if they are any happier or content.

There is the "opportunity" of learning a second language which, I know, some students are not too happy about, but stop and realize what a wonderful advantage this is going to be in a few years time when they graduate and start looking for employment. I would also add that, given the opportunity, they should also take advantage of learning a third language.

Another "opportunity" is in the field of adult education. We, too, need to make use of all the good courses that are given today, most of them free for all who are anxious to improve their way of life.

It is time for all of us, whether we are young or old, to take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to us. Remember we only get out of life what we ourselves are ready to put into it.

Mrs. Lewis Henderson,
Convener of Education.

Dear W. I. Members:

Congratulations to all of you who won prizes at your local Fairs. It is nice when our families appreciate our cooking and baking efforts but much nicer when we can receive prizes too!

Congratulations to *Granby Hill* on their 50th Anniversary. They have three Charter members to whom they presented 50-year pins. One of these ladies is 93. She attends

every meeting, lives alone, has a garden, and does all her own work. This branch also presented four Life membership pins. A Life membership pin was also presented to a member in *Lachute* branch.

Our sympathies go to *Howick*, who lost Mrs. Thomas Kerr, their last Charter member, and to *Cowansville* who will miss Mrs. Ruth Bibby who had been an active member in both branch and county for 17 years. A donation in her memory was sent to the District of Bedford Mentally Retarded Association. Sympathy is also extended to *Austin* and *Brownsburg*, who have both lost a member.

A booklet, available from Information Canada for 50 cents, called "Healthful Eating" was recommended by a guest speaker at *Lachute*. *Kinnear's Mills* are looking into the feasibility of bulk-buying to cut costs.

Among all the handicrafts done, quilting seems to be getting very popular. (See Compton County special.) *South Bolton* have made a "Birds of America" quilt and will display it at their Semi-Annual County meeting. With winter coming up now is the time to plan what we can do. We have more time. How about the Coats' and the Q.W.I. handicraft contests? Your Home Economics convener has the details. The Regional Schools are offering varied Continuing Education courses. We can keep our cost of living down by learning to sew our own clothes or learning to knit or crochet or learning to refinish furniture. Courses also stretch our minds and can be fun. *Pioneer*

had a letter of thanks from Mrs. Paton of the N.C.W.I. for some W.I. literature they had sent to the North. Mrs. Paton noted that 80 per cent of the women in the North do not read English but are eager for outside news — ways must be found to overcome the language problem.

Bury heard a talk on School Boards by a Regional School Board director. She also expained SEAPAC — a service for Anglo-phones in the area. Staff use a bus to take them from one place to another where they give counselling and vocational guidance as well as assist people with home, legal, or income tax problems.

Valcartier enjoyed a very successful Labour Day Picnic. They had a chicken barbecue for 160 people. It was a lot of work, but they had able assistance from their menfolk.

Lakefield held a bazaar and sold tickets on a painting that had been donated to them and did very well. *Baldwin Cartier* were planning a bazaar and home bake table in aid of the VON.

We are still "travelling" via speakers and slides. *Stanbridge East* heard about Australia from a lady who had recently lived there. She said life was a lot more leisurely than in Canada. *Arundel* had a speaker who had worked in India and they saw interesting slides of the Punjab. *Howick* saw slides of the Adelaide Hoodless homestead. *Canterbury* entertained other branches and saw slides on England and Scotland, while *Frontier* was entertained by the Hillview W.I. to a variety program. *Clarendon* W.I. and friends did a

bus tour of various places in Carleton and Lanark Counties. They visited a cheese factory, saw over a blacksmith's shop, the Bowes Museum and the Experimental Farm at Ottawa among many other places of interest and had an enjoyable day.

A member, who had been visiting her family in England, brought back a book called "Kent" from a Kent W.I. as a gift to her branch as well as some souvenir gifts from the English W.I. to the members.

Fordyce had an interesting Roll Call. Each member answered by drawing a subject from a basket and speaking on it for one minute. Some of the subjects were "Where would you move to if you had to"; "What has W.I. done for you"; "A family antique"; "Should draft-dodgers be given amnesty?"

With winter coming and no garden outside, have you thought of making a terrarium? This is a way of bringing the outside in and brightening the house. All you need is an attractive glass or clear plastic container — a fish bowl, old aquarium, a nicely shaped jar with a neck wide enough to enable you to plant your plants. Put some gravel and loamy soil in the bottom, add a shell or attractive rock and put in some small plants that like a fair amount of moisture — ferns, mosses, "Wandering Willie" and such. Water lightly and cover with a piece of glass and put in a well lighted area. It does not have to be in direct sun; that may cause too much condensation or drying.

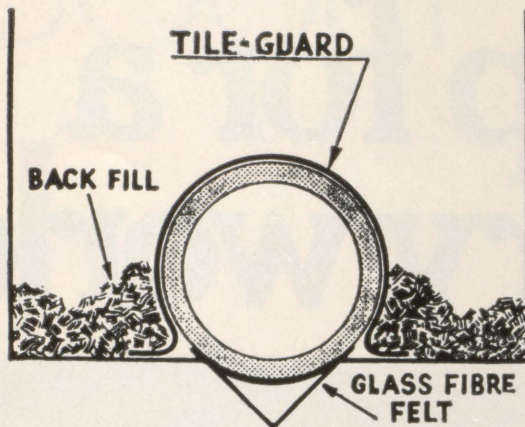
Mrs. J. Robertson,
Q.W.I. Publicity.

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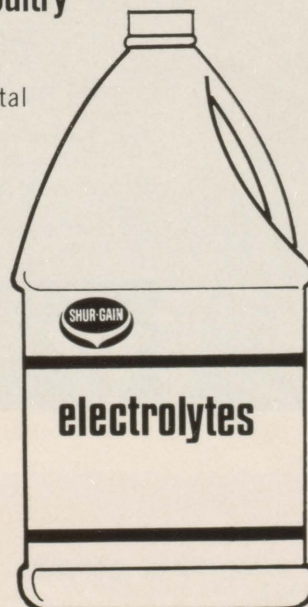
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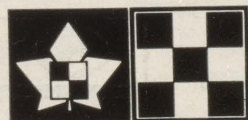
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